

In-Fur-Nation

And the ConFurence Chronicle

Volume 2 Number 4

All The News We Get, We Print!

January, 1993

A Winter's Day...

Down-to-the-wire time for ConFurence Four, folks. More on that later in the ConFurence Chronicle. First, here now the news...

Department of Corrections...

Apparently our math was off last issue. Deal Whitley was almost 36 at the time of his death, not 34.

Paul Kidd, creator and organizer of the *Albedo* role-playing game, has sold his first novel, entitled *Fangs of K' aath*. This massive anthropomorphic fantasy details the adventures of three lovers (yes, three) in the intrigues and treacheries of a middle-eastern society on an alternate Earth. The novel will be sold in both Australia and US markets.

Two old friends: *Red Sheild* #6 (Graph-X-Press) and *Hepcats* #10 hit the stands as of last month. Bug your local comic shop to get in more—they both tend to go fast!

Also hitting the stands last month was Dan Flahive's *Space Wolf* from Antarctic Press. The first three issues are a mini-series reprinting the adventures from *Albedo*, as well as providing background information and character studies.

Now available from Archie Adventure Comics is the first half of the *TMNT Mutant Universe Sourcebook*, an alphabetical compilation of heroes, villains, and other stuff from the pages of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Adventures* and *Mighty Mutanimals*. The project was compiled by Dean Clarrain, and the art is by Farley, Thomas, D'Agostino and Grossman. The second half is scheduled for release in March of 1993.

An odd item recently found is *Vortex the Wonder Mule* by Michael Halbeib, released by Cutting Edge Productions through Personality Comics. The story concerns a hyper-evolved alien warlord, and what happens when he makes the mistake of up-evolving a terran pack mule—with an attitude! Here's the odd part: Issues #2 and #3 showed up simultaneously in comic stores, and no one we spoke to had ever seen issue #1. Also odd: Issue #2 is an origin story.

Mad Monkey Press is a new comic book publishing outfit in Toronto with some interesting titles under its belt. *Masquerade* by Chris Royal and Jason Armstrong features the rather humorous adventures of a young boy and some friendly monsters (and others not-so-friendly) in the boy's nightly dreams of adventure. *Magicians' Village* by Kaja Blackley and Alison Williams shows us

what happens when a tormented young dreamer from New York City is invited to visit a magical city of wizards, giant animals and other magical creatures—apparently because his father came from that very place. Both of these titles are perfect bound, and should be available at your local comic shop. If not, ask!

Revelations the Special Edition is now available from Golden Realm Unlimited. This multi-title comic features stories in multiple universe settings by Jose Calderon, and features three furry titles: *Biohazard-X* (art by Les Denis and Matthew Lunsford), *Dream Weavers* (art by Lunsford), and *Tail Tails* (art by Daphne Lage). Each of these titles is planned to spin off into its own series in the future. A limited run of this special edition is available for \$2.75 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling. Checks or money orders should be made out to Daphne Lage, c/o Golden Realm Unlimited Inc., 32-19 54th Street Woodside, New York, NY 11377.

Heard about but not seen—*Arcana: An Anthropomorphic Tale*, a new comic from Fallen Angel Studios in Canada. If it hasn't turned up at your local comic shop, you can order it direct by sending \$2.50 plus \$1.00 postage to Fallen Angel Studios, P.O. Box 224, Smithville, Ontario, Canada L0R 2A0. Money Orders are preferred.

If you've watched not a minute of television in the last six months, you might have missed the ad blitz telling you that *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* has been released for the Sega Genesis system. This new electronic game also features the premiere of Sonic's new assistant, "Tails" the two-tailed fox.

Other new furry video games on the horizon include *Wacky Races*, *Chester the Cheetha*, *Road Runner & Wile E. Coyote*, numerous new *Ninja Turtle* games, and *Bubsy Bobcat* in *Claws Encounters of the Furred Kind*. You heard it here.

Speaking of Video Games, at least one has been turned into a novel. *Wing Commander* from Electronic Arts is now the basis for a series of science fiction books by ConFurence 4 GOH Mercedes Lackey and her frequent collaborator, Ellen Guon. The novels (like the game *Wing Commander II*) concern the adventures of space-faring humans and an avian race ("our" side) versus a feline alien race ("their" side).

In A Deep And Dark December...

ConFurence Four Progress Report

ConFurence Four, In Search Of Ancient Furies, is dedicated to the memory of Deal Whitley, comic creator and furry artist.

The Guests

Our special guests Larry Dixon and Mercedes Lackey will be available at several times and locations during ConFurence Four for book signings, autographs, commissions from Larry, readings, and participation in several of our SIGs and Species Clubs. Be sure to check your pocket schedule, as well as signs throughout the con, for the latest updates as to their appearances.

Our other special guest, long-time fan and fanzine editor Ken Fletcher, will be presenting some memories and stories about the early days of furry fandom, as well as from his long experience with fandom and conventions in general. ConFurence Four will also feature many of the well-known furry guests you've come to expect at ConFurence, like Mel White, Terrie Smith, Jim Groat, Edd Vick, Dan Flahive, Phil Morrissey, John Cawley, Fred Patten, Ed Kline, Marc Schirmeister, Noah Miller, Ken Sample, Kjartan Arnórsson, Steve Martin, Jefferson Swycaffer, Carl Gafford, plus a host of fresh new talent. But as always our most important guest is you!

The Hotel

Yes, rooms are still available! But how much longer will that be true? Get your room reserved now! Remember, single and double rooms are only \$65.00 a night (same as ConFurence Zero!), triples and quads are only \$75.00 a night, and the Executive Level is only \$85.00 a night with all the extra goodies that go with it (call the hotel for more info on that). Call (714) 540-7000 right now and make your reservations right away. And be sure to mention ConFurence Four!

One important point: Our hospitality suite (with its own hot tub!) and VIP lounge will be located on the Executive Level. All members of ConFurence are welcome to come to the hospitality suite. But the other amenities of the Executive Level are *only* available to those people (both from and not from ConFurence) who have rented rooms on the Executive Level. ConFurence or Red Lion staff will kindly ask you to move on if that doesn't include you. The hotel has been simply excellent to us so far—we want to extend them the same courtesy!



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The Location?

So how will you find ConFurence Four? Why, you'll follow this handy-dandy map.

The Red Lion Inn Orange County Airport is located 1/2-block south of the San Diego (405) freeway, on the northeast corner of Bristol and Paularino. From the 405 freeway northbound (e.g. from Orange County John Wayne Airport), get off at the Bristol Street exit, make a left onto Bristol. Cross the freeway, and make a left at the first light (before Paularino) into the Red Lion Inn parking lot. The garage is in back of the hotel (parking is free). From the 405 freeway southbound (e.g. from Los Angeles International Airport) get off at Bristol Street southbound, and turn left at the first light (Paularino). Turn left again at the first light, into the Red Lion Inn parking lot.

ConFurence Four (except for the Cabaret) is taking place on Banquet Level 1. When you enter the parking garage, turn left to go down one level for the Banquet/Convention parking. The doors from the garage lead directly to the convening area with no steps up or down.

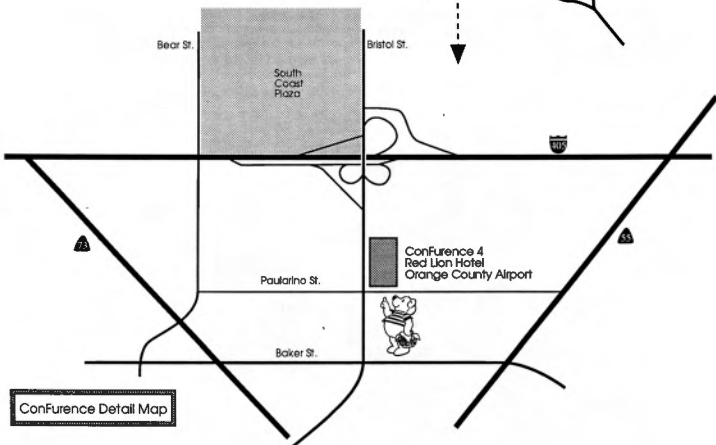
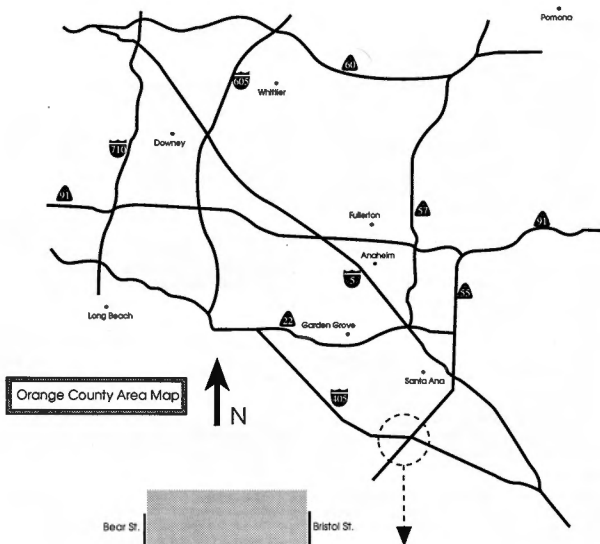
The Dealers' Den

The Dealers' Den is currently sold out. In fact, there is a short waiting list of people who would still like to get a table if one becomes available. To those people on the waiting list, there are two options: Either see if any dealers fail to show up (not an uncommon event), or, reserve a table each morning in the Artist Alley. To Dealers attending ConFurence Four: A map of the Dealers' Den should be included with this mailing.

In front of the Art Show is our Artist Alley, a less formal (and cheaper!) gathering place for creative people to show off and sell their stuff. Half-tables (same as above) are available free of charge, on a daily first-come, first reserved basis only. Sign-ups are at 9:45 A.M. each morning, so come early! Remember, one 3 ft. by 3 ft. space per person signed up, and you do not have to have a membership yet to reserve a table—but, you must get your membership before you can set up your table.

The Art Show

This year is going to once again be bigger than ever. We know because the whole room is bigger than any we've had before! That means lots more room in which to display lots more furry drawings, paintings, sculpture, and other media—maybe even computers! Once again, with the standard demand for space at a ConFurence Art Show, we're requesting that anyone planning to sell art through our show please register your total number of panel/table spaces with us prior to the convention. Remember, one 4 ft. by 4 ft. horizontal or vertical space is available free with your paid attending or supporting membership, but we need to know if you intend to use it! Additional 4 by 4 ft. spaces are available for only \$5.00 each, but again we need to know how many you'll need. Mailed-in art, agent art, or art you bring in yourself are all acceptable, but you must fill out an art registration packet prior to displaying in the show. Contact John Stanley at ConFurence for more Art Show and Auction information.



The Costumes

Furry Costumers have an opportunity to show off their stuff at a special SIG meeting on Saturday afternoon, or just wear their costumes around the con (both will be photographed for judging). Costume photos will be displayed at the Saturday Night Feed for voting by all those who're at the dinner (hint hint!). Prizes will be awarded for the first and second most popular furry suits, plus maybe some special recognition prizes. If you plan on presenting a costume Saturday, and have any special sound or lighting needs, make sure to get in touch with ConFurence right away! For those who want to see, photograph, or video tape the Costume SIG, separate areas will be available for those using available light and those using flash bulbs.

The Games

Justifiers, or *GURPS*, or *Albedo*, or *Other Suns*, or *Toon*, or *Werewolf*, or... what do you have in mind? The Game Room will be available all night Friday and Saturday. Contact Shayn Ramey at the ConFurence address for more information.

The Filking

We not only have a great lyricist like Mercedes Lackey for our guest, we even have filk for sale in the Dealers' Den! Not to mention our Saturday night Filk Contest! Songs entered can be of our special theme, creatures of legend and fantasy, or any topic of furry interest. Following the contest, it's singing as you please into the wee hours of the mornin'. Write to Rod O'Riley at the ConFurence address for more filking info.

The Machines

And welcome to them! Whether your bit is computer games, graphics, animation, networking, or virtual reality role playing, you'll find plenty of kindred here! Displays and live network tie-ins will be available at ConFurence Four.

The Happenings—

The Cabaret

Once again we'll be presenting our Saturday Night Cabaret, which was so successful as a fund raiser for Reed Waller last year. This year we're raising funds for the Du Cret School of the Arts, in memory of our friend Deal Whitley. Tickets will be available for a separate charge at Registration—18 and over only, please! After the Cabaret, it's time for Fur Rave '93, a stomp-your-feets festival of high-energy dance music—and everyone is welcome!

The Food

As before, Friday night we'll be presenting our special all-you-can-eat ice cream social, included free with your membership. But, Saturday, it's time for Pizza! Stacks and stacks of your favorite toppings and drinks, all at a modest price-per-slice. Tickets for this special event go on sale Friday.

The Furies

Once again you'll see our popular round-robin style SIG (special interest group) meetings, dedicated to comics, art, writing, universe creating, computers, networks, and many other topics. Special SIGs will be dedicated to our special theme, In Search Of Ancient Furies. That is, furies in myth, legend, and history from many cultures. Also, Four will see the premiere of the Species Clubs, informal meetings throughout the day in the Hospitality Suite for people with an interest in particular types of animals—cats, dogs, weasels, and more!

The Film

Video, actually. The amount of anthropomorphic material available, from movies and TV around the world, has exploded lately! And we plan to take advantage of it. Plan to see an amazing spread of movies, episodes, shorts, and other goodies—some you may not believe!



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The Help We Need...

Our Sponsors

Sponsors are the wonderful people who help keep ConFurcure going by giving just a little extra bit (or a lot extra bit!) of financial help. This is money for transporting, lodging, and feeding our special guests, as well as off-setting complimentary memberships. To become a sponsor, you contribute a minimum of \$20.00 over and above your membership fee, up to \$99.00. Indicate which of our special guests this money is to help toward, or just mark it "general fund"—we'll split it among all of them. And what do you get for being a sponsor? Sponsors are the only folks (besides staff and guests) allowed in the VIP Lounge, a special place set aside where folks can relax away from the hubbub of the con. Guests and sponsors can attend a free sandwich-feast on Sunday evening, after the con. And, sponsors get some special prices on materials from the ConFurcure store. And, sponsors get—our unending gratitude! (Not to mention, their name in the souvenir book!)

Soooooooper Sponsors!

Super Sponsors are people who really want to help out the convention—and think they deserve something special in return. Super sponsors are *marvelous* wonderful people willing to contribute \$100.00 or more above their membership costs toward our special guests. Super Sponsors get all the same neat stuff as other Sponsors, plus an added bonus of a personalized commission from a famous furry artist! (Write for a list of participating artists.) Don't have \$100.00 sitting around handy? Make installments! That's right, we'll take two payments of \$50.00, or four payments of \$25.00—it still counts you as a Super Sponsor!

And yes—you can become a sponsor or super sponsor at the door, just by paying the appropriate amount!

Our Souvenir Book

The ConFurcure Souvenir Book is one of the high points of any ConFurcure; a compact collection of Furry reflections and artwork, with no convention biz to clutter it up (that stuff all goes in the Pocket Program). Once again, our convention/book theme for this year is In Search of Ancient Furies. Right now, our Souvenir Book for 1993 has about all the material we can fit in it—we humbly and gratefully thank our contributors of art and articles.

Furries on the Wing

ConFurcure now has its own official travel agency, Ladera Travel of Southern California. They've specialized for years in getting good rates for travel to and from SF cons, and now that includes ours! Contact Rick Foss or Robin (his trusty assistant) at (800) 624-6679 from outside California, or (310) 640-0527 inside California.

Registration

Pre-Registration and At-The-Door Registration will be separated. For those who have pre-registered memberships, or those who are converting supporting memberships to attending, your name will be checked against our list, and you'll be handed a packet of your seminar materials (schedules and Souvenir Book), ribbons that you get (VIP, sponsor, etc.) if any, your admission badge, and a correction sheet. If you've moved or any information we have on you has changed, please fill out the sheet and turn it in later!

For those planning to register at the door, prices are as follows: \$15.00 one-day for Friday, \$20.00 one day for Saturday, \$15.00 one day for Sunday, \$25.00 for Saturday and Sunday together, and \$30.00 for all three days. (Remember—tickets to the Saturday Night Pizza Fest, and the Cabaret/Dance, are a separate charge. These will also be on sale at Registration.) Fill out a membership card, hand in your fee (cash, check, or money order), and you'll be handed your seminar packet.

The Times...

Registration opens at 10:00 A.M. each morning of ConFurcure. Registration for ConFurcure Four closes at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, 7:00 P.M. Saturday, and 1:00 P.M. Sunday. On Sunday at 1:00 P.M., sales begin for memberships in ConFurcure Five, 1994.

The Dealers' Den will be open the same ours as Registration. Dealer's Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. each morning. Artist Alley sign-up is at 9:45 each morning. Given the long hours of Saturday, the Dealers' Den will be closed for one half-hour beginning at 3:00 P.M. that day, to give the dealers a lunch break.

The Art Show will be open from Noon until 8 P.M. on Friday, from Noon until 9 P.M. on Saturday, and closed entirely on Sunday to prepare for the auction and art sales.

Be Seeing You!



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CONFERENCE FOUR — Here, Now, De-Tails:

WHEN:

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
January 22, 23, 24, 1993

WHERE:

Red Lion Hotel, Orange County Airport
3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
\$65.00/night, single or double rooms.
Call (714) 540-7000 for reservations, and be sure to
mention ConFurence Four

HOW MUCH:

- \$20.00 for a full membership, until 12/01/92
- \$25.00 for a full membership received between
12/01/92 and 01/15/93
- \$30.00 for a full membership bought at-the-door
(after 01/15/93)
- \$10.00 for a supporting membership, anytime
(Gets all mailings, including
In-Fur-Nation, and the Souvenir Book)

Please Recycle

FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION

92642-1958
GARDEN GROVE, CA
PO BOX 1958

ConFurence

Our Special Offer: \$17.00 full attending membership, for
previous ConFurence members only (please include your
previous membership number with your check!)

Sponsorship: A minimum contribution of \$20.00 above
your membership.

Super Sponsorship: A minimum contribution of \$100.00
above your membership, singly or in multiple payments of
\$50.00 or \$25.00.

WRITE TO:

ConFurence
P.O. Box 1958
Garden Grove CA 92642-1958
Phone: (714) 530-4993 (ask for ConFurence)
(800) 234-8237

WHO ARE WE?

Mark Merlino, Rod O'Riley, John A. Stanley, Larry
Adams, Shayn Raney, Jazmyn Wolf, Henry Brown Jr.,
Jim Lomax, David Bliss, Darren Hanson, Ken Neilsen,
Leon Self, Farix, John Cawley, Pete Miller, Vicky Levitin,
Kay Shapiro, Don Barrett.

